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INFORMATION ON ECONOMIC IMPACT PAYMENTS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IN THE LATEST CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE PACKAGE

Through the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021](#), Congress and President Trump are providing significant new aid as part of the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic. Two key areas are the second round of "economic impact payments" and additional federal aid for unemployed Americans.

Second round of direct payments underway

- On December 29, the Treasury Department [indicated](#) it had started sending the second round of economic impact payments to Americans.
- Taxpayers with up to \$75,000 in adjusted gross income will receive \$600; married couples filing jointly with up to \$150,000 in income will receive \$1,200; families will receive \$600 per qualifying child. The payments phase out for people with incomes above these levels. A qualifying family of four will receive \$2,400.
- This second round of payments comes after the more than \$270 billion in economic impact [payments](#) made earlier in the year to almost 160 million Americans under the CARES Act.

Unemployed Americans continue to get supplemental federal aid

Congress and President Trump extended or restored federal jobless benefit programs created under the CARES Act, to provide more relief to unemployed Americans. This includes:

- Extension of the CARE Act's "pandemic unemployment assistance" program, which provides federally funded unemployment compensation for independent contractors, the self-employed, and other workers who normally do not qualify for regular state benefits. The benefit is based on states' unemployment insurance calculations. The PUA is extended through mid-March. At that point, people cannot enter the program, but people already receiving PUA benefits may continue in the program until it ends on April 5, if they have not used up the maximum number of weeks available.
- Extension of the CARES Act "pandemic emergency unemployment compensation" program, which provides extra weeks of federally funded benefits for people who have

exhausted their weeks of regular state benefits. This weekly benefit amount is the same as the regular benefit under state law. The PEUC is extended through mid-March. At that point, people cannot enter the program, but people already receiving PEUC benefits may continue in the program until it ends April 5, if they have not used up the maximum number of weeks available.

- According to the Wall Street Journal on December 29, a spokeswoman for the Department of Labor [said](#), “As states are implementing these new provisions as quickly as possible, the department does not anticipate that eligible claimants will miss a week of benefits due to the timing of the law’s enactment.”
- A \$300 extra weekly payment for Americans receiving jobless benefits, through the restored “federal pandemic unemployment compensation” program. It applies to weeks of unemployment beginning after December 26 and ending on or before March 14, 2021. This extra weekly payment is on top of other jobless benefits, such as regular state benefits, PEUC, and PUA.
- The amount of regular state unemployment benefits varies by state. According to the Department of Labor, the [average](#) weekly regular benefit in the U.S. for the 12 months ending November 30 was about \$319. This does not include the CARES Act extra federal UI payment of \$600 per week provided through July.